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17 November 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Geographic and Cartographic Research

THROUGH : Deputy Director of Geographic and Cartographic Research

THROUGH : Chief, Administrative Staff, OGCR

THROUGH : Chief, Geography Division, OGCR

THROUGH : Chief, Middle East/Africa/Western Hemisphere Branch, Geography Division, OGCR

SUBJECT : Sponsored Domestic TDY Travel

1. Purpose of Travel

To attend the Fifth Annual Conference on South Asia sponsored by the Department of South Asian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, 5-6 November 1976. The meetings were held at Lowell Hall, the University guest house and small conference center. About 200 attendees, mostly with academic backgrounds, participated in the panel discussions. Most of the panelists and discussants were either of South Asian extraction (mostly Indian) or had recent field experience in South Asia.

2. Activities

The majority of the sessions were concerned with sociological and historical aspects of South Asian studies in contrast to last year's conference that was oriented primarily toward current events in India. While the subject matter of this year's panels was less applicable to intelligence problems, the discussions were none-the-less interesting and informative. An observable trend was the increasing use of movie film rather than a written paper to record and present research findings. Film does beat a dull paper, particularly a pedantic one read in a monotone.

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Two papers by the same author, a U.S. businessman formerly associated with a multi-national pharmaceutical company, aroused a fair amount of comment. The first paper, "India...The Silent Revolution", referred to a switch in the economic planning policy of the Government of India over the last 3-4 years from dependence on socialist theories to a new approach patterned on the "Tobin Mason" model of economic growth favored by such countries as Brazil, the Phillipines, Taiwan, and South Korea. The outgrowth of that research is contained in the second paper entitled, "Western Economic Models and Third World Elites", in which the author's admittedly unproven thesis hypothesizes that links between international institutions such as the IMF, UNCTAD, the World Bank, GATT, and multi-national corporations and Western-trained technocrats in Third-World government bureaucracies influence the decision to follow a Western model of economic development that in turn may necessitate the existence of an authoritarian government. Copies of these papers have been forwarded to South Asian analysts in OCI and OER for perusal and comment.

A special plenary session had as its guest speaker, Ram Jethmalani, Barrister-at-Law and former Chairman of India's Bar Council (now a political refugee in the U.S.). His very current topic, "India's Changing Constitution", precipitated heated, acrimonious, and sometimes emotional interchanges between the speaker and the discussants and the Indian members of the audience.

3. Comments

A lunch, a dinner, and an informal cocktail hour were scheduled features of the conference and offered good opportunities to discuss points brought up in the afternoon and morning sessions as well as to get acquainted with some of the conference members. Perhaps too well acquainted. At the first luncheon upon joining a table of eight, one of the panelists whom I had met last year introduced me by name and affiliation. Naturally, the Agency and its activities -- fact and fiction -- became Topic A. Some knee-jerk hostility to the Agency was encountered during conversations at that luncheon and on subsequent social occasions, but more noticeable was a professed desire -- almost an eagerness -- to have more professional level exchanges with agency analysts. Funding, contracts, and other linkages are still unpopular -- understandable given the CIA-phobia in India -- but a flow of ideas and area expertise would be welcomed.

4. Commitments

Prof. John Richards (History Dept., Univ. of Wisconsin) is expected to replace Manindra K. Verma as Director of South Asian Studies at Madison.

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Prof. Richards is interested in finding ways to develop more contacts and "feed-back" with Agency analysts. The old topic of Agency analysts involved in unpublishable classified research was eased with references to available unclassified documents and to the Agency policy of encouraging participation of Agency personnel in Panel discussions at professional meetings. He is aware of some of the unclassified papers released by the Agency, i.e., the Climatology paper and its implications for South Asia. Which led to our series of atlases and the forthcoming Indian Ocean Atlas. I promised that we would send him a copy when it comes out. He in turn, wearing his hat as a member of the Review Board of the Journal of Asian Studies, asked if we would object to having it reviewed in that publication. I replied that to the contrary, we would welcome it. I promised him an additional copy for that purpose. He volunteered that it would probably be given to Prof. Joseph Schwartzberg to review (Dept. of Geo., Univ. of Minnesota).

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